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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fremont Fire Chief Willie McDonald Announces Departure

Fremont, CA – May 13, 2004 – Fire Chief William L. “Willie” McDonald announced today that he has accepted the position as fire chief with the City of Scottsdale, Arizona. His last day with Fremont will be in mid-June.

“I am proud to have been a member of the City of Fremont team and that made it a very difficult decision to accept this new assignment after such a short stay here,” said Chief McDonald. “I enjoyed my time in Fremont, especially the dedication and professionalism of the employees and their commitment to service excellence.”

In his new position as Scottsdale’s first fire chief, McDonald will have the opportunity to assist the city in creating a new municipal fire department, including placement of new fire stations, company staffing, the length of the work week, and other key policy decisions over the next 12 months. “I see this as a once in a lifetime challenge that I cannot pass up,” explained McDonald. For over 50 years Scottsdale had received fire protection from private company, Rural/Metro, which recently informed the city of its intention not to renew their services contract.

Chief McDonald joined the City of Fremont in July 2002, replacing Dan Lydon who had retired after 39 years of service to the city. Chief McDonald previously worked for the cities of San Mateo, Foster City, and Fresno.

City Manager Jan Perkins thanked Chief McDonald for the critical role he played in maintaining the city’s safety during his tenure, “Chief McDonald has led this department through very difficult budget times these

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past two years, while still providing fire services at the highest levels. He has been highly involved in the community, giving his time freely. He will be greatly missed.”

Over the years, Fremont has been recognized as one of the most progressive departments in the Bay Area. Fremont was the first city in the county to provide paramedics on fire engines, as well as train all fire dispatchers in emergency medical dispatching. Fremont’s CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program includes 2,400 volunteers who are trained to help the fire department during a major disaster. In 1999 the City passed an ordinance requiring sprinklers to be installed in all new construction and in the interior corridors of existing apartment houses.

An interim Fire Chief for the Department will be appointed to ensure a smooth transition of leadership. Recruitment for a permanent successor will begin immediately.

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